

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this Application.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 20-25 are currently amended. Applicants respectfully submit that support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and the drawings.

Claims 1-27 remain pending in the Application after entry of this Amendment. No new matter has been entered.

In the Office Action, claims 1-27 stand rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 7,600,124 and claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 7,650,512. Claims 1-27 are otherwise indicated as allowable over the prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Without conceding the merit of any rejection on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 7,600,124 and claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 7,650,512, Applicants file herewith terminal disclaimers directed to the subject patents. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting.

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for the purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof.

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections set forth in the Office Action, these amendments may be made to expedite issuance of the Application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims to subject matter similar to those pending before the present Amendment in co-pending or subsequent applications.

Appl. No. 10/731,623
Amdt. dated November 24, 2010
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2010

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Further, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-1430.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

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